### Supporting information:

# Bacterial Cytological Profiling Reveals the Mechanism of Action of Anticancer Metal Complexes

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#### Contents

Calculations of ratio of DNA and RNA nucleotides to metal centers at different conditions.

- Table S1. Cellular metal content isolated with different nucleic acids measured by AAS.
- Figure S1. Cytotoxicity dose response of compound 1 and cisplatin in *E. coli*.
- Figure S2. Size distribution histograms of *E. coli* filaments with various antibiotics treatments.
- Figure S3. Compound **1** induces time dependent filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli* (40 µM, 6 hr).
- Figure S4. Compound **1** induces time dependent filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli* (40 µM, 16 hr).
- Figure S5. Compound **1** induces time dependent filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli* (100 µM, 16 hr).
- Figure S6. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of N. C. control.
- Figure S7. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of cisplatin (MIC, 6 hr).
- Figure S8. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of compound 1 with light (MIC, 6 hr).
- Figure S9. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of rifampicin (10 x MIC, 6 hr).
- Figure S10. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of tetracycline (MIC, 6 hr).
- Figure S11. Supplemental views of fluorescent imaging of nalidixic acid (MIC, 6 hr).
- Figure S12. Standard deviations in DNA fragment size for the various compound treatments.
- Figure S13. Flow cytometry analysis of apoptosis in HL60 cells.
- Figure S14. Flow cytometry analysis of cell cycle arrest in HL60 cells.

## Calculation of the ratio of DNA and RNA nucleotides to metal based on data reported by DeRose *et al.*<sup>1</sup>:

The platinum content measured after 12 hours treatment of 100 µM cisplatin was used for this calculation.

Pt / DNA nt = 60.2 x 10<sup>-5</sup>  
DNA nt / Pt = 
$$\frac{1}{60.2 \times 10^{-5}}$$
 = 1661:1  
Pt / RNA nt = 15.7 x 10<sup>-5</sup>

RNA nt / Pt =  $\frac{1}{15.7 \times 10^{-5}}$  = 6369:1

Calculation of the ratio of DNA and RNA nucleotides to metal based on data reported from an IVTT assay<sup>2</sup> (at the  $IC_{50}$ ):

DNA bp / Ru = 570:1

DNA nt / Ru = 1140:1

DNA bp / Pt = 300:1

DNA nt / Pt = 600:1

RNA nt / Ru = 610:1

RNA nt / Pt = 820:1

## Calculation of the ratio of DNA and RNA nucleotides to metal at the $IC_{50}$ to Dendra2 production inhibition based on data collected in AAS:

The DNA and RNA nt / mc ratio collected by AAS at  $20\mu M$  is as follows:

DNA nt / Ru = 2000:1 DNA nt / Pt = 3000:1 RNA nt / Ru = 3800:1

RNA nt / Pt = 4700:1

Assuming the uptake is linearly proportional to the dosed concentration, the  $IC_{50}$  value to inhibit Dendra2 production in *E. coli* is 77 µM for compound **1** and 85 µM for cisplatin. Thus, a correction coefficient can be calculated to adjust the metal content to what would be obtained at the higher compound dose:

Compound 1: 
$$\frac{77}{20} = 3.8$$
  
Cisplatin:  $\frac{85}{20} = 4.3$ 

Then, at the  $IC_{50}$  to inhibit Dendra2 production, the theoretical metal to DNA or RNA nucleotides to metal ratio can be calculated as follows:

DNA nt / Ru = 
$$\frac{2000}{3.8}$$
 = 520 : 1  
RNA nt / Ru =  $\frac{3800}{3.8}$  = 1000 : 1  
DNA nt / Pt =  $\frac{3000}{4.3}$  = 700 : 1  
RNA nt / Pt =  $\frac{4700}{4.3}$  = 1090 : 1

The average molecular weight values used in calculation for DNA base pairs and RNA nucleotides are 665 g/mol and 340 g/mol.

	E. coli		HL60	
	Percentage of metal bound with genomic DNA <sup>a</sup>	Percentage of metal bound with total RNA <sup>b</sup>	Percentage of metal bound with genomic DNA <sup>a</sup>	Percentage of metal bound with total RNA <sup>b</sup>
1 light	1.3% ± 0.1%	0.5% ± 0.1%	1.3% ± 0.1%	2.0% ± 0.3%
1 dark	ç	c	c	c
cisplatin	1.0% ± 0.1%	0.7% ± 0.1%	1.1% ± 0.1%	1.5% ± 0.2%

Table S1. Cellular metal content with different nucleic acids measured by AAS.

<sup>a, b</sup>The percentage of metal bound with genomic DNA or total RNA was calculated as follows:

Percentage of metal bound with DNA (RNA) =  $\frac{\text{Metal measured in DNA (RNA) sample (µmol)}}{\text{Metal in DNA sample + cell sample (µmol)}}$ 

<sup>c</sup> Ruthenium level in DNA and RNA samples were under the detection limit (<2ppb).



Figure S1. Cytotoxicity dose response of complex **1** (red lines) and cisplatin (black lines) in *E. coli* following photoirradiation (solid lines, filled circles) and dark condition (dashed lines, open circles).



Figure S2. Size distribution histograms of *E. coli* filaments with treatment of A) rifampicin; and B) tetracycline. *E. coli* cells were treated with 3  $\mu$ M of rifampicin and 48  $\mu$ M of tetracycline (10x IC<sub>50</sub>) for 6 hours.



Figure S3. Complex 1 induces filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli*. A) - D) Bright field and fluorescent imaging of *E. coli* cells under different conditions; E) - H) Size distribution histograms of *E. coli* cells under different treatments; I)- L) Histograms of average fluorescence intensity (Ave. Fl. Int.) correlating to cell size with different treatments. Top through bottom panels: N. C. control, cisplatin, compound 1with light, and compound 1 without light. Cells were treated with 40  $\mu$ M each compound for 6 hours before imaging.



Figure S4. Complex 1 induces filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli*. A) - D) Bright field and fluorescent imaging of *E. coli* cells under different conditions; E) - H) Size distribution histograms of *E. coli* cells under different treatments; I)- L) Histograms of average fluorescence intensity (Ave. Fl. Int.) correlating to cell size with different treatments. Top through bottom panels: N. C. control, cisplatin, compound 1with light, and compound 1without light. Cells were treated with 40  $\mu$ M each compound for 16 hours before imaging.



Figure S5. Complex 1 induces filamentous growth and decreased protein production in *E. coli*. A) - D) Bright field and fluorescent imaging of *E. coli* cells under different conditions; E) - H) Size distribution histograms of *E. coli* cells under different treatments; I)- L) Histograms of average fluorescence intensity (Ave. Fl. Int.) correlating to cell size with different treatments. Top through bottom panels: N. C. control, cisplatin, compound 1with light, and compound 1without light. Cells were treated with 100  $\mu$ M each compound for 16 hours before imaging.



Figure S6. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of N. C. control. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.



Figure S7. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of cisplatin. Cells were treated MIC for 6 hours before imaging. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.



Figure S8. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of compound **1** with light. Cells were treated MIC for 6 hours before imaging. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.



Figure S9. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of rifampicin. Cells were treated 10x MIC for 6 hours before imaging. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.



Figure S10. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of tetracycline. Cells were treated MIC for 6 hours before imaging. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.



Figure S11. Supplemental fluorescent imaging of nalidixic acid. Cells were treated MIC for 6 hours before imaging. The merge is the combination of the Hoechst and FM4-64 membrane stain emission data.





The %STD of DNA fragments was defined and calculated as follows:

%STD (DNA pieces size) =  $\frac{\text{Standard deviation of sizes of DNA pieces}}{\text{Average of sizes of DNA pieces}}$ 



Figure S13. Flow cytometry analysis by FITC/Annexin-V and PI of apoptosis in HL60 cells. FITC-Annexin V (FL1-H) was used in combination with propidium iodide (FL2-H). A) N. C. control; B) cisplatin; C) compound **1** with light irradiation; D) compound **1** in dark. HL60 cells were treated with 20  $\mu$ M compounds for 24 hours.



Figure S14. Flow cytometry analysis by propidium iodide of cell cycle arrest in HL60 cells. A) N. C. control; B) cisplatin; C) compound **1** with light irradiation; D) compound **1** in dark.HL60 cells were treated with compounds for 24 hours.

#### **References:**

1. Hostetter, A. A.; Osborn, M. F.; DeRose, V. J., RNA-Pt adducts following cisplatin treatment of Saccharomyces cerevisiae. *ACS Chem Biol* **2012**, *7* (1), 218-25.

2. Heidary, D. K.; Glazer, E. C., A light-activated metal complex targets both DNA and RNA in a fluorescent in vitro transcription and translation assay. *Chembiochem* **2014**, *15* (4), 507-11.